

2 September 1977

Dear George,

Let me give some amplifying details concerning a request I have received to give a talk before the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers.

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The specifics of the instant occasion, as I understand them, are about as follows. It is their annual convention and the site is the Twin Bridges Marriott Hotel. There will be in excess of 300 people present with representatives of the media also there. On Thursday, the 15th of September, they hope to have as their luncheon speaker Deputy Secretary of Defense Duncan. That afternoon they are going to have a panel discussion--the panel composed of Admiral McCain, General Cushman, General Vogt, and General Stilwell, all retired. I will be the speaker at the Friday, 16 September, luncheon and that evening they hope to have Senator Chafee as a featured speaker at their concluding banquet.

Dave has suggested I speak for 15 or 20 minutes, following which there is a usual 5 to 10 minute question and answer period. While they endeavor to restrict questions only to their membership, they cannot prevent questions coming from the media representatives. In this connection, George Bush, who spoke to them last year, fielded a question from Walter Pincus as a result of which Pincus ended up writing a rather snotty editorial.

My thoughts on the matter are to be positive and upbeat. I would see the basic ingredients of the remarks to be as follows:

- a. The usual gracious remarks about the Chairman and President of the organization as well as the organization itself

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b. The "humble, but proud" approach in having an opportunity to talk to them.

c. The interest of the President in supporting the DCI, in strengthening the management and operations of the Intelligence Community.

d. Developing the three major new responsibilities in PD/17.

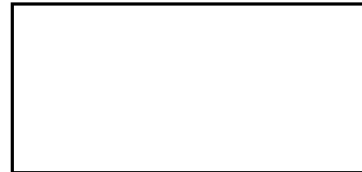
e. The soon to be issued new Executive Order.

f. The rapport between the Executive Branch and the Senate Select Committee in approaching the matter of legislation.

g. We have turned the corner and no longer look back but look forward to advancing the contribution of the Intelligence Community to the nation.

Any additional thoughts you may have which would make this presentation as equally memorable as The Gettysburg Address would be gratefully received.

My thanks in advance.



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John F. Blake

cc: A/DCI/PA (Mr. Hetu)

[Redacted]

Special Assistant to the DCI

[Redacted]

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